

***Remarks***

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 13 and 16-22 are pending in the application, with claims 13 and 16 being the independent claims.

Based on the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

***Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102***

Claim 13 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by JP1-205392. Applicants respectfully traverse. Claim 13 comprises, among other things, a heater assembly, wherein "said heater assembly is attached to a surface of said electro-optical biometric image capturing system that is outside the optical path." JP1-205392 does not teach or suggest a heater assembly attached to a surface, wherein the surface is outside the optical path. Applicants thus respectfully submit that claim 13 is patentable over JP1-205392. Reconsideration and withdrawal is respectfully requested.

***Allowable Claims***

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of claims 16-22.


***Conclusion***

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all currently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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